BISS Biodiversity Information Science and Standards

Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 3: e36979
doi: 10.3897/biss.3.36979

OPEN ACCESS

Conference Abstract

Reaching an Established but Growing Network: Use-case from Canadensys

Carole Sinou[‡,§], Anne Bruneau[‡], Deborah L Paul[|], Mary Kennedy[¶]

‡ Institut de Recherche en Biologie Végétale, University of Montréal, Montréal, Canada
§ Canadensys, Montréal, Canada
| Florida State University, Tallahassee, United States of America
¶ OBIS Canada, Dartmouth, Canada

Corresponding author: Carole Sinou (carole.sinou@umontreal.ca)

Received: 07 Jun 2019 | Published: 18 Jun 2019

Citation: Sinou C, Bruneau A, Paul D, Kennedy M (2019) Reaching an Established but Growing Network: Use-case from Canadensys. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 3: e36979. https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.3.36979

Abstract

Canadensys is an associate GBIF node in Canada, officially established as a node in 2014, but publishing data on GBIF since 2011. Since then, Canadensys has grown from nine institutions to a network of nearly 25 institutions that publish biodiversity data and we have migrated from an in-house explorer, to a Living Atlases (LA) framework. Canadensys publishes data curated or collected by Canadian universities, museums, as well as municipalities and non govermental organizations (NGOs).

Establishing a new network can be challenging, but several resources and programs exist to help node managers and node participants initiate the publication process.

Keeping an established network alive while continuing to grow and to develop new methods and technologies is also an important challenge, especially in a context where institutions are geographically separated across large distances, and where funds are scarce or mostly oriented towards highly innovative projects.

With the aim to reach both established and new participants across Canada and from adjacent regions in the USA, and in order to help them to familiarize themselves with the new framework based on LA, we organized three workshops on data publication and data usage. Partially funded through a GBIF CESP project, this series of workshops was

© Sinou C et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

developed in partnership with international, regional and national partners such as iDigBio, OBIS Canada and GBIF Spain. The workshops helped new participants prepare and publish data, and allowed established publishers to enrich and update their resources on Canadensys and GBIF. The project also highlighted some of the challenges our network is facing, such as funding, infrastructure, human resources, and communication. Feedback from participants shows that the workshops were successfull in terms of capacity enhancement, giving knowledge and tools to data manager in order to prepare and publish standardize data, as well as to transfer that knowledge in their respective institutions. All materials and documentation developed during this project will be made available on Canadensys, allowing everyone interested to follow the curriculum. Sharing our experience will be useful for other nodes wanting to introduce the LA framework to their users and to enhance capacities in the network.

Keywords

Canadensys, ALA, GBIF, CESP, Living Atlases, network, workshop

Presenting author

Carole Sinou

Presented at

Biodiversity_Next 2019

Funding program

This work is funded by the GBIF Capacity Enhancement Support Program CESP, and the University of Montréal. CESP program aims to facilitate transfer of knowledge and regional to international collaborations.